

Clarke Richard Russell
June 1, 1926 – January 28, 2018

MILITARY HISTORY by Steve F. Russell

On September 18, 1944, Dad enlisted in the Army during World War II and was assigned to Combat Infantry. Boot camp, at Fort Roberts, CA, lasted about 6 weeks. Adding a week of leave means he would have shipped out about Nov 6, 1944 – to the Pacific Theater.

He crossed the pacific on a Norwegian Freighter (the Torrens) that had been outfitted as a troop transport ship¹. It took 49 days² and he arrived at Leyte Gulf in the Philippines about the 25th of December, two months after the navel battle of Leyte Gulf (Oct 23-26, 1944). American troops fought the Japanese on Leyte Island from Oct 20 until Dec 26, but small groups of Japanese still fought on³; hiding in caves and fighting a jungle warfare style. Dad was assigned to an outfit the had to “mop up” (root out, and kill) enemy troops from the caves and the dense jungle. The "mop up" outfits had a nasty, disgusting, terrifying job! I remember as a young boy that he would sometimes show black and white photos of the combat dead stacked in piles and covered in flies. In later years he got mad at the brutality they had to commit and tore the photos out of his album.

His next battle engagement was with the 82nd Infantry Brigade (163rd Infantry Regiment), 41st Division ("Jungleers" or "Sunsetters") conducting an amphibious landing at the Battle of Mindanao (Operation Victor V). Under heavy mortar fire, his outfit was dumped so far off shore that it required swimming with full battle packs. He could not swim but a buddy got him safely to shore. Several men in his outfit drowned in the landing.

After Victor V, he was transferred to the battle for Mount Daho at Jolo Island⁴ in the southwest Philippines. Here he experienced more Jungle fighting and frequent assault by snipers. He related how snipers would wait in the trees for men to come out of their bunkers or tents to go the bathroom, which gave them a clear shot. Most men had another soldier go with them to fire back. He told me about crappy food and all manner of snakes and spiders and other creepy crawlies.

After the Japanese surrender, the 163rd Infantry Regiment was inactivated on



Japanese
Surrender
Sep 2, 1945

¹NH 89865 M.V. TORRENS (Norwegian Merchant Cargo Ship, 1939-1970, under this name 1939-1966.

²Dad told me he was seasick the whole voyage and that the ship smelled of barf and bologna sandwiches.

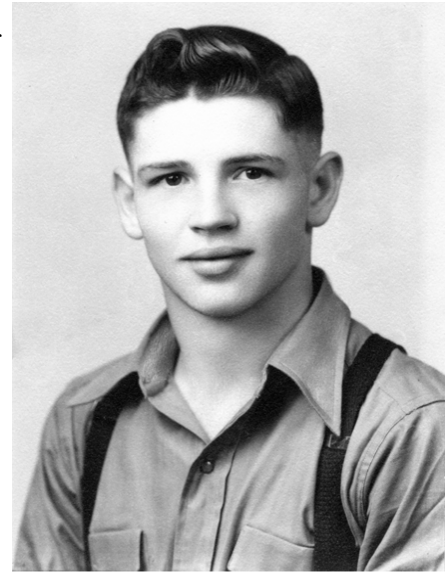
³Learning of the seizure of the last port open to the Japanese, Gen. MacArthur announced the end of organized resistance on Leyte. As these sweeps continued, he transferred control of operations on Leyte and Samar to the Eighth Army on 26 December. Farther north, other US forces made faster progress against more disorganized and dispirited enemy troops. 1st Cavalry Division troops reached the coast on 28 December as 24th Division units cleared the last enemy positions from the northwest corner of Leyte on the same day and two days later met patrols of the 32nd Division. But Japanese defenders continued to fight as units until 31 December, and the ensuing mop-up of stragglers continued until 8 May 1945.

⁴On April 2, 1945, the Second Battalion of the U.S. 163rd Regiment, 41st Division (formerly the Montana National Guard) landed at Sanga Sanga and Bongao in the Sulu Archipelago, halfway between the island of Borneo and the Philippines. A week later, the other two battalions of the regiment left Mindanao and landed at Jolo, where they began fighting their way up heavily defended Mount Daho, the highest point on the island. The Sultan of Jolo, Muhammad Janail Abirin the 2nd, leader of the archipelago's 300,000 Moslems, welcomed Col. William J. Moroney, commander of the 163rd, and promised to help rid the island of Japanese. In three weeks of combat the 163rd suffered 37 dead and 191 wounded. Approximately 2,600 Japanese troops were killed.

Dec 31, 1945 in Japan. Dad was sent to Nigato, Japan, just over the hill from Kuri Navel Base where he was put in charge of a crews of Japanese soldiers (prisoners) that were rebuilding the city infrastructure. After the 163rd disbanded, he was transferred to the 4th Engineers Special Brigade (inactivated Apr 15, 1946), and finally to the 25th Infantry. His former units were being inactivated after the end of the war.

After serving two years, he was mustered out on October 28, 1946 and sent home to Idaho.

Dad would never to be the same after participating in these horrors of war. The happy go lucky kid in those earlier photos while he lived at hope was replaced with a traumatized adult. He handled his PTSD and emotional problems by working long hours for the rest of his life. Many years, he worked at logging seven days a week, when weather permitted. Later in life, he finally found comfort in Christianity and a belief in salvation through Jesus. This led him to life as a small church pastor. He also started a prison ministry that lasted many years.



Clarke Richard Russell
High School Graduation Photo
Weippe, Idaho 1944





Clarke Richard Russell
Combat Infantry
Camp Roberts, CA Oct 1944



Clarke
Richard
Russell
WW-II Japan 1945

Nigato, Japan



Clarke R. Russell, Nigato, Japan, 1946



How to Ride a Mule
Clark Richard Russell
Lochsa River Hunting Camp 1954
Clearwater National Forest, Idaho



9-18-44 Ind. Army - 10-28-46 Hon.Disc."Demobilization"

FORM APPROVED
Budget Bureau No. 83-R012-42

REGISTRATION CARD (Men born on or after July 1, 1924, and on or before December 31, 1924)
(Also for the registration of men as they reach the 18th anniversary of the date of their birth on or after January 1, 1943.)

SERIAL NUMBER	1. NAME (Print)	ORDER NUMBER
W - 76	Clarke Richard Russell	10736
	(First) (Middle) (Last)	

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print)
Weippe Clearwater Idaho
(Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)

(THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON LINE 2 ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL)

3. MAILING ADDRESS
Same
(Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same, insert word same)

4. TELEPHONE	5. AGE IN YEARS	6. PLACE OF BIRTH
	18	Orofino
	DATE OF BIRTH	(Town or county)
	June 1 1926	Ida.
(Exchange) (Number)	(Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)	(State or country)

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS
Steve Russell, Weippe, Ida.

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS
Steve Russell - Weippe, Ida

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS
Weippe Ida.
(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

DSS Form 1 (Rev. 11-16-42) e16-21630-4 (OVER) Clarke Russell
(Registrant's signature)



Clarke R. Russell and Shirley Y. (Perkins) Russell 1976

Pastor Clarke R. Russell
Cedar Street Baptist Church 2002
Townsend, Montana